Navy Advancement Exam

Introduction

- **Background**
- **Topics to cover**
  - Advancement exam changes
  - Exam information
  - Test preparation at NETPDTC
  - Preparing for the exam
  - Exam day
  - Helpful hints

TEST TRENDS

- Fall 00 Spring 00 Fall 99
- Advance 8.4% 10.6% 15.1%
- PNA 44.7% 48.7% 37.0%
- Failures 32.4% 30.2% 38.4%
- Errors 11.3% 8.4% 7.6%

Advancement Exam Changes

- **NAVADMIN 189/00**
- **FMS revised to balance knowledge, performance, and experience**
  - Old computation had more emphasis on exam score and less on performance and experience

E7 FMS Computation Example

- **Candidate #1**

PMA(3.6-P)	46.8
SS	65
FMS	111.8

- **Candidate #2**

PMA (4.0-EP)	52
SS	50
FMS	102

Advancement Exam Changes

- **PMA weighting increased by 20%**
- **Length of service factor eliminated**
- **PNA weighting doubled and total increased to 30**

Advancement Exam Changes (cont'd)

- **200-Question Exam**
  - Starts Jan 2002
- Question Breakdown

Test	Rate	BMR
E4	150	50
E5	135	65
E6	115	85
E7	100	100

Advancement Exam Changes (cont'd)

- **Exam Schedule** (effective Jan 2001)

January	3rd Thursday		E7
March	1st Tuesday	E6	
	2nd Tuesday	E5	
	3rd Tuesday	E4	
September	1st Thursday		E6
	2nd Thursday		E5
	3rd Thursday		E4

Advancement Exam Changes (cont'd)

- **Fast Track Program**
  - Maximum 1 year TIR waiver
  - Most Current Regular Periodic Eval Only
  - Must have authorizing letter from CO
- **No more points for college degrees**
- **No more points for ESWS/EAWS**
- **Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal credit**

Exam Information

Final Multiple Score (FMS)

(E4/5 Candidates)

- Standard Score 80 34%
- PMA 84 36%
- SIPG 30 13%
- Awards 10 4%
- PNA points 30 13%

234 100%

Final Multiple Score (FMS)

(E6 Candidates)

- Standard Score 80 30%
- PMA 110 41.5%
- SIPG 34 13%
- Awards 12 4.5%
- PNA points 30 11%

266 100%

Final Multiple Score (FMS)

(E7 Candidates)

– Standard Score	80	60%
– PMA	52	40%
	132	100%

Sample Exam Scoring Chart

Raw Score	Standard Score
120	80
105	70
90	60
75	50
60	40
53 (E6/7 pass)	35
48 (E5 pass)	32
43 (E4 pass)	29

Anatomy of a Profile

- **Raw Score**
  - Number of questions right
- **Standard Score**
  - How you did comparatively against your peers
- **Candidates rank ordered by FMS**

Test Preparation at NETPDTC

Test Development

- Written by CPOs (E7-E9)
- Designed to test experience and knowledge
- Prepared 12 months prior to test date
- Based on occupational (rate) and professional military knowledge information
- Exam writer takes exam same day you do

Exam “Myth”

- Myth: A number of questions are arbitrarily thrown out of every exam (not scored).
- Fact: All questions are used for scoring unless there is a valid reason to delete a question (e.g. outdated equipment).

Types of Questions

‘A’	- Taken from Rate Training Manual - Usually the easiest
‘B’	- Publications listed in bibliography - More difficult because of material required to review
‘C’	- Other references listed in RTM, but not in bibliography
‘D’	- Other references listed in bibliography

‘A’ and ‘B’ keep exam realistic

‘C’ and ‘D’ make exam competitive

Preparing for the Exam

STUDY

- **Be one up on your competition**
  - Most don’t study
- **Begin studying 3 months prior to exam**
  - Study, stop, study, stop, …
- **Know where to get your study material**
  - http://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/

Study Material

- **PARs no longer available**

- **Bibliography for Advancement Study**
  - Navy's "cheat sheet"
  - Available only electronically
  - E4/5/6 Bibs posted in March and September
  - E7 Bibs posted in July
  - Always study the most recent version

Study Material (cont'd)

- **Rate Training Manuals**
  - Service record entries are no longer required
  - Completion may be required by local commands
  - Still available and recommended as primary study source
  - Will eventually be available only electronically
  - Recommend completing 30 to 45 days prior to exam

Environment for Study

- **Make a schedule and stick to it**
- **Use study habits that work best for you**
  - Be a good listener around the office
  - Find a good “coach” – ask questions
  - Play knowledge “games”
  - Volunteer to instruct rate training
- **Study in environment similar to exam room**
- **Don’t cram the night before**

Exam Day

Pointers for Exam Morning

- **Positive Mental Attitude (PMA)**
- **Ensure worksheet is correct**
- **Time allotted**
- **Leave ID card out**

Taking the Exam

- Cover answers with ID card before reading question
- Read question twice
- Mark answer only if you’re absolutely sure of the answer
- If unsure, mark question number and possible answers on scratch paper
- Go to next question
- Complete entire exam this way

Taking the Exam (cont'd)

- **Start over with questions from scratch paper**
  - Could recall answer this time
  - Change answer only if you're 100% sure
- **Go through all questions on scratch paper, answering what you can**
- **When filling out answer sheet…**
  - Make sure you fill in correct question numbers
  - Stay away from obvious patterns

Helpful Hints
(Used only if you don’t know the answer)

- Now you answered all the questions you know, time to narrow down the answers you didn’t know.
- Put aside your answer sheet and take out your scratch paper.

Longest Answer

- **Usually correct**
  - Main concern of exam writer is to give correct answer
  - In order to make it correct, everything must be listed

Longest Answer - Example

- The Family Services program is available to assist which of the following?

  A. Dependents only

  B. Enlisted personnel only

  C. All active and retired members of the U. S. Navy and their dependents

  D. Active duty personnel only

Negative Question

- **Tends to confuse test taker**
  - Your mind thinks in a positive light, therefore you must think about the question in a way you normally wouldn’t
- **Turn it into a positive statement**

Negative Question - Example

- Which of the following ranks are NOT used in the Navy?
  A. CDR
  B. MAJ
  C. CAPT
  D. LCDR
- Reword question to read: “All of the following are ranks used in the Navy except…”

Overlapping Choices

- Often appear in statistical or mathematical questions
- Not a total guess - require some thought process and reasoning

Overlapping Choices - Example

- What percentage of Sailors treated at Navy alcoholism treatment centers are able to resume their careers after treatment?
  A. Less than 60%
  B. Less than 70%
  C. More than 70%
  D. More than 80%

Similar Alternatives - Example

- Unless further action is taken, naval message directives are automatically cancelled after what period of time following the date of release?

  A. 1 year

  B. 6 months

  C. 90 days

  D. 180 days

Position of the Correct Answer - Example

- According to Navy Industrial safety records, what number of minor injuries occur for each severe injury?

  A. 15 to 20

  B. 20 to 25

  C. 25 to 30

  D. 30 to 35

All of the Above

- 9 times out of 10 it is correct
- Treat it like a true/false question
- Mark it and move on
- Normally, exam writer could not fit entire answer into one choice

Both ‘A’ and ‘B’ or Both ‘B’ and ‘C’

- 9 times out of 10 it is correct
- Once again, the writer could not fit the entire correct answer into one choice

None of the Above

- 9 times out of 10 it is incorrect
- Rare if exam writer does not give you the correct answer
- Eliminate it as a possible answer
- Normally, exam writer could not think of another distractor

Answer Disclosed by Another Question - Example

- The circuit designation of the Captain's Battle Circuit is:
  - A. JA
  - B. JL
  - C. 1JV
  - D. 1MC

Later in the Exam…

- The proper manner for the controller of the JA Captain’s Battle Circuit to find out if telephone stations are manned and ready is to state:

Repeated Alternatives - Example

- Two types of amphibious warfare ships are:
  A. DD and LCC
  B. LCC and LPD
  C. LPD and MCM
  D. ATF and ARS

Even Distribution Rule

- Applies to correspondence courses, exams, etc.
- Approximately 25% of answers in each letter group
- Prevents Sailors from marking all “A’s” and getting advanced

Even Distribution Rule (cont'd)

- **At end of exam, count A's, B's, C's, and D's from answer sheet**
- **Mark totals on scratch paper**
- **Go through questions left on scratch paper one at a time**
- **Fill in answer sheet with "letter shortages"**
- **Reread question only if shortage in 2 or more letter groups**

Good luck!